

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Masaru Odajima *et al.*

Application No.: NEW APPLICATION

Group Art Unit: N/A

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: METHOD OF AND APPARATUS FOR
FRICTION STIR WELDING

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

MS Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

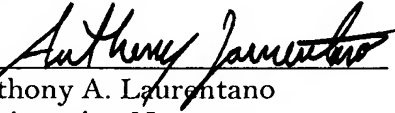
While the information and references disclosed in this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 12-0080, under Order No. TOW-059 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: January 14, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	NEW APPLICATION
				Filing Date	Concurrently Herewith
				First Named Inventor	Masaru Odajima
				Art Unit	N/A
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	TOW-059

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	A1	US-2002/0027153 A1	03-07-2002	Sayama et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)					
	A2	JP-2002-66763 (corresponding to A1)		03-05-2002	Honda Giken Kogyo Kabushiki Kaisha		
	A3	JP-11-226759		08-24-1999	Sumitomo Light Metal Ind Ltd.		Abs
	A4	JP-10-230373		09-02-1998	Showa Alum Corp		Abs
	A5	JP-10-193139		07-28-1998	Showa Alum Corp		Abs
	A6	JP-10-137859		05-26-1998	Hitachi Ltd		Abs
	A7	JP-2002-188513		07-05-2002	Honda Motor Co. Ltd.		Abs

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²

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¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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